

10. The method of claim 12 wherein the compound includes at least one boron compound.

12. (Twice Amended) A method of manufacturing a negative electrode for a rechargeable lithium battery comprising:

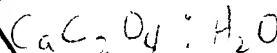
mixing a negative active material with a compound to form a mixture, the compound being selected from the group consisting of nitride compounds, sulfide compounds, chloride compounds and fluoride compounds, wherein the compound further comprises at least one element selected from the group consisting of transition metals, alkaline metals, alkaline earth metals and semi-metals, wherein the amount of the compound is 0.05 to 30 wt %;

adding an organic solvent to the mixture;

coating the resulting mixture on a current collector; and

drying the coated current collector and pressing the dried current collector.

13. (New) A negative active material slurry for a rechargeable lithium battery comprising a mixture of a negative active material and a compound in an organic solvent, the compound being selected from the group consisting of calcium oxalate monohydrate,  $B_2O_3$  and  $BF_3$ , wherein the amount of the compound is 0.05 to 30 wt %.



#### REMARKS

Claims 2, 4, 6 to 8, 10, 12 and 13, as amended, are pending. Applicant has canceled claims 3, 5, 9 and 11, amended claims 6 and 12, and added new claim 13. Applicant has also amended the specification. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment, which is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made." The amendments find full support in the original specification and claims. Specifically, support for the amendment to the specification can be found in original claim 5. Support for the amendments to claims 6 and 12 can be found in the original specification at page 5, lines 1 to 11. Support for new claim 13 can be found in original claims 1, 3 and 5. No new matter is presented. In view of the above amendments and following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable consideration and a timely indication of allowance.